

## AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A digital token represented in storage on a computing device, comprising:
  - a) a token identifier ~~stored on a user's computer identifying the token~~; and
  - b) a user identifier ~~stored on the user's computer in association with said token identifier identifying a user~~; and
  - c) a token-vendor identifier identifying a vendor that sold the token.
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended): A digital token according to claim 1, further comprising:  
e)d) a balance representing the monetary value of the token.
4. (currently amended): A method of distributing a digital token, comprising the steps of:
  - a) receiving a data transmission comprising a credit card number, a monetary amount and a unique previously-assigned user identifier;
  - b) assigning a unique token identifier and storing said token identifier in association with said user identifier and said amount; and
  - c) transmitting to the user who is associated with said identifier a digital token including the token identifier, a token-vendor identifier identifying a vendor that sold the token, and the user identifier.
5. (currently amended): A method of distributing a digital token according to claim 4, further comprising the step[[s]] of:  
e)d) storing a password in association with the token identifier.
6. (currently amended): A method of obtaining a digital token comprising the steps of:
  - a) obtaining a user identifier from a user license previously stored on a user computer, the user license further including a computer system ID thereby tying the user license to a particular computer system;
  - a)b) purchasing a digital token from a token distributor, wherein the token includes a token identifier and the user identifier;
  - b)c) receiving a digital transmission from the distributor including said token; and
  - e)d) installing said token on a computer registry.

7. (currently amended): A method according to claim 6, wherein said token further includes a ~~token~~ token-vendor identifier.
8. (canceled)
9. (original): A method according to claim 7-6 wherein said token includes the monetary balance that is available to be spent that is represented by the token.
10. (currently amended): A method of charging payment against a previously purchased digital token, comprising the steps of:
  - a) storing on a user computer having a computer identifier, a user license containing a user identifier and the computer identifier for the user computer;
  - a) b) receiving via data connection a data transmission requesting application of a token balance toward payment for a purchase, said data transmission including a token identifier and ~~a~~ the user identifier; and
  - b) c) subtracting the purchase price from the token balance and storing the updated token balance in association with the token identifier.
11. (currently amended): A method of charging payment against a previously purchased~~ed~~ digital token according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:
  - c) d) transmitting via data connection to the user computer the updated token balance.
12. (currently amended): A method of digitally distributing a digital license in exchange for payment via a digital token, comprising the steps of:
  - a) providing a server computer networked for data transmission with multiple users, said server running software for dispensing
    - i) ~~digital licenses and software for dispensing,~~
    - ii) digital tokens, each digital token including a token identifier and a user identifier, and
    - iii) user licenses, each user license including a user identifier and a computer identifier,and said server housing a database;
  - b) ~~assigning to a user a user identifier and storing the user identifier in said database installing on a user computer associated with a first user a first user license, the user identifier therein set to uniquely identify the first~~

- user and the computer identifier therein set to contain attributes uniquely identifying the user computer;
- c) making a digital licenses available for purchase;
  - d) ~~transmitting installing a first digital token to a user, said token including a~~ on the user computer, the user identifier therein set to the user identifier in the first user license and the token identifier therein set to a unique value;
  - e) storing in said database said token identifier in association with the user identifier and a monetary value for the first digital token
  - f) receiving a request via data transmission from a the user computer to purchase a first digital license, said user request including a the user identifier and a the token identifier of the first digital token;
  - g) upon request received via data transmission from a user to purchase a the first digital license, applying the monetary value of the first digital token against the purchase price of the product;
  - h) subtracting the amount applied against the purchase price from the token value and storing the updated token balance in said database; and
  - i) transmitting the first digital license to the user.
13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
- j) upon receipt of a the user request to purchase a the first digital license, ~~with a previously purchased digital token~~, comparing the user identifier and the token identifier in the request with data stored in the database to determine whether the token identifier is stored in association with the same user identifier.
14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of:
- j) upon receipt of a the user request to purchase a the first digital license, ~~with a previously purchased digital token~~, comparing the balance stored in the database in association with the token identifier to determine whether the token represents a value at least as great as the purchase price of the digital license requested.
15. (currently amended): A digital token system, comprising:

- a) a server computer running software for dispensing digital tokens, said server being connected to multiple user computers for data transmission therebetween;
  - b) data storage housing a database connected with said software, said database including token records, each token record including a token identifier and a user identifier;
  - c) a digital token stored on a user computer, the token including a token identifier and a user identifier; and
  - d) a user license stored on the user computer including a user identifier matching the user identifier in the digital token and a computer identifier matching characteristics uniquely identifying the user computer.
16. (currently amended): A method for purchasing a digital token, comprising the steps of:
- a) receiving via data transmission to a computing device a user identifier;
  - b) storing within a user license said user identifier on said computing device in association with a computer identifier including a set of characteristics uniquely identifying said computing device;
  - c) sending a data transmission requesting a digital token, said request including the user identifier and a monetary value for the token;
  - d) receiving via data transmission a digital token, said token including a token identifier and said user identifier; and
  - e) storing said token on said computing device.
17. (currently amended): A method of making a purchase via a previously purchased digital token having a token identifier and representing an original monetary value, comprising the steps of:
- a) from a computer on which is stored a previously-purchased digital token containing a token identifier and on which is stored a previously-assigned user license containing a user identifier and a system identifier uniquely identifying the computer, transmitting a request to make a purchase, said request including said token identifier and said user identifier and a monetary amount for the purchase; and
  - b) receiving via data transmission an updated monetary value represented by the token having been lessened by the purchase amount.

18. (new): A system for verifying that a particular user owns a digital token having a given token identifier, comprising:
  - a) a set of one or more digital tokens stored in encrypted form on a user computer, each token including a token identifier and a user identifier;
  - b) a user license stored in encrypted form on a user computer including a user identifier, a computer identifier, and personal financial information associated with a user; and
  - c) software for decrypting the user license and displaying the personal financial information to the user thereby creating a disincentive to sharing the user license.
19. (new): A method for making a purchase with a digital token stored on a user computer, comprising the steps of:
  - a) establishing a user license and a digital token on a user computer, the user license having a user identifier and a system identifier uniquely identifying the user computer, and the digital token having the user identifier and a token identifier;
  - b) electronically tying the digital token to the user computer through the user identifier; and
  - c) sending a data transmission containing the user identifier and token identifier from the user computer to a seller so as to apply the digital token toward a purchase;
20. (new): The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:
  - d) electronically verifying that the user identifier in the data transmission matches a database entry associated with the token identifier.